

## U.S. Embassy, Manila, Philippines

Emergency Message for U.S. Citizens: Philippine Travel Warning

May 22, 2015

THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES IS TRANSMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AS A PUBLIC SERVICE TO U.S. CITIZENS IN THE PHILIPPINES. PLEASE DISSEMINATE THIS MESSAGE TO ALL U.S. CITIZENS IN YOUR ORGANIZATION OR NEIGHBORHOOD. THANK YOU.

The U.S. Embassy wishes to advise all U.S. citizens that the Department of State issued an updated Philippines Travel Warning on May 20, 2015.

The Department of State warns U.S. citizens of the risks of travel to the Philippines, in particular to the Sulu Archipelago, certain regions and cities of the island of Mindanao, and the southern Sulu Sea area. This Travel Warning replaces the Travel Warning dated November 20, 2014, and reflects continuing threats in those areas due to terrorist and insurgent activities.

The full text of the message can be found on the Department of State web site at <a href="http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/philippines-travel-warning.html">http://travel.state.gov/content/passports/english/alertswarnings/philippines-travel-warning.html</a>. The message can also be accessed through the Embassy web site at <a href="http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwha008.html">http://manila.usembassy.gov/wwwha008.html</a>. U.S. citizens should closely monitor Travel Warnings and Alerts, as well as Country Specific Information, on the Department of State's travel website to be informed of the latest safety and security information for destination countries.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila is located at 1201 Roxas Boulevard, and is open 07:30-16:00, Monday through Friday. The Embassy's main telephone number is (632) 301-2000. U.S. citizens needing to speak to the Embassy can dial this number and ask to be connected to the American Citizens Services (ACS) unit. You can also contact the ACS unit through email at <a href="https://docs.org/10.25/16/2007/ACS-10-16-00">ACSInfoManila@state.gov</a> or through the <a href="mailto:Embassy Facebook page">Embassy Facebook page</a>. Please <a href="mailto:visit our website">visit our website</a> for information on all services offered by the ACS unit. If you are a U.S. citizen in need of urgent assistance outside of business hours, call the Embassy's emergency after-hours number (632) 301-2000 and ask for the Embassy Duty Officer.

We strongly recommend that U.S. citizens traveling to or residing in the Philippines enroll in the <u>Department of State's Smart Traveler Enrollment Program (STEP)</u> at <u>travel.state.gov</u>. STEP enrollment gives you the latest security updates, and makes it easier for the U.S. embassy or nearest U.S. consulate to contact you in an emergency. If you don't have Internet access, enroll directly with the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Regularly monitor the State <u>Department's website</u>, where you can find current <u>Travel Warnings</u>, including the <u>Travel Warnings</u>, including the <u>Travel Warning for the Philippines</u>, Travel Alerts, and the Worldwide Caution. Read the <u>Country Specific Information for the Philippines</u>. For additional information, refer to <u>"Traveler's Checklist"</u> on the State Department's website.

Contact the U.S. embassy or consulate for up-to-date information on travel restrictions. You can also call 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada or 1-202-501-4444 from other countries. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays). Follow us on <a href="Twitter">Twitter</a> and <a href="Facebook">Facebook</a> to have travel information at your fingertips.